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Subject: Updated Booster dose recommendations and implementation 11/19



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine— please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all of our communications are archived on our [web site](#).

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

This email contains important information about the COVID-19 vaccine booster roll-out that we want to make sure you are aware of.

This morning the [Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) amended the emergency use authorizations \(EUA\)](#) for both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines authorizing use of a single booster dose for all individuals 18 years of age and older after completion of primary vaccination with any FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. Subsequently the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met this afternoon to issue the below recommendations; meeting and presentation materials are available [here](#). CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky accepted those recommendations and released a [statement](#).

Updated booster dose recommendations

COVID-19 vaccine providers in Connecticut may begin administration of booster doses in line with the FDA emergency use authorization and CDC recommendations.

For individuals who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)

Everyone 18 and older is eligible to receive a booster dose 6 months after completion of the primary series under the EUA. Individuals age 50 and older and residents in long-term care settings age 18 and older SHOULD receive a booster dose. Individuals 18 through 49 MAY receive a booster dose based on individual benefits and risk. More information can be found [here](#).

The J&J and heterologous series recommendations remain the same:

All individuals who received a J&J vaccine should receive a booster 2 months after the initial dose.

Both the FDA and CDC support individuals to receive a booster dose that is a different vaccine type than they originally received for their primary series if they choose. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Age	mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series		J&J COVID-19 vaccine primary series
	No risk factors	Resident of LTCF	
50 years	Should receive booster	Should receive booster	Should receive booster
18-49 years	May receive booster	Should receive booster	Should receive booster

Updated recommendations for people vaccinated outside of the United States and people who received COVID-19 vaccine as part of a clinical trial

On Wednesday, CDC issued Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) and updated its [clinical considerations](#) to allow the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech to be given as an additional primary dose or booster dose to certain people who completed a vaccine primary series with certain COVID-19 vaccines that are not authorized or approved by the FDA. This ensures that eligible people who were vaccinated outside of the U.S. with these vaccines, or who received certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines through participation in some clinical trials, can get an additional primary dose or booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

REMINDERS

Guidance regarding eligibility verification for booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines

As has always been the case during the COVID-19 vaccine roll out, the State of Connecticut wants to ensure that vaccine access is simple and straightforward for vaccine recipients. Providers should continue to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are readily available for individuals who seek them and that administration of a COVID-19 vaccine is medically appropriate and conducted in line with the ACIP guidelines.

Ensuring patients receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the appropriate interval:

Connecticut DPH recommends that providers have a procedure for ensuring that individuals receive their booster no sooner than the minimum recommended interval. This can be accomplished in one of several ways, in order of preference:

- Verify the vaccine information, including the brand and date(s) a patient received their previous COVID-19 vaccine doses using CT WiZ; or
- Review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccination Card, VAMS Certificate, CT WiZ Certificate, or other documentation of the recipient's vaccination record; or

- If neither of the above are possible, ask the patient for the vaccine brand(s) and dates of previous COVID-19 doses received during the scheduling process (and including logic in scheduling systems to ensure appropriate interval).

Ensuring recommended individuals receive a COVID-19 booster:

Connecticut DPH continues to support patient self-identification and attestation as a sufficient basis for confirming that an individual is within one of the categories for whom boosters are recommended.

Additional considerations:

DPH reminds providers that there is no residency requirement to receive COVID-19 vaccines and that identification (ID) is likewise not required. Although ID may be requested from the patient for purposes of billing, no individual should be turned away due to lack of ID and providers should endeavor to create a welcoming environment for people to seek COVID-19 vaccines.

Thank you for everything you are doing to keep Connecticut residents safe and healthy!

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